

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated Gas6 polypeptide with an epitope tag fused at the C-terminus, said epitope tag comprising a Flag sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO. 2.
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2. An isolated Gas6 polypeptide of claim 1 comprising a polypeptide of SEQ. ID NO. 1.
3. An isolated Gas6 polypeptide with an epitope tag fused at the C-terminus, said epitope tag comprising a polyhistidine sequence.
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4. An isolated Gas6 polypeptide of claim 3 comprising a polypeptide of SEQ. ID NO. 1.
5. A variant Gas6 polypeptide with an epitope tag fused at the C-terminus, said epitope tag comprising a Flag sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO. 2 and said variant Gas6 polypeptide comprising a polypeptide having at least 75% identity to native human Gas6 protein.
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6. A variant Gas6 polypeptide of Claim 5 having at least 90% identity to native human Gas 6 protein.
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7. A variant Gas6 polypeptide with an epitope tag fused at the C-terminus, said epitope tag comprising a polyhistidine sequence and said variant Gas6 polypeptide comprising a polypeptide having at least 75% identity to native human Gas6 protein.
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8. A variant Gas6 polypeptide of Claim 7 having at least 90% identity to native human Gas 6 protein.
9. Variant Gas6 of either claim 5 or 7 that maintains the biological activity of a native Gas6 protein or polypeptide, wherein said biological activity is receptor binding or phosphorylation, wherein said receptors are Axl, Mer, or Sky.
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10. Variant Gas6 of either claim **5** or **7** that maintains its biological activity of a native Gas6 protein or polypeptide, wherein said biological activity is a cellular or molecular response to Gas6.
- 5 11. A recombinant DNA molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of claim 1.
12. A recombinant DNA molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of claim 1.
- 10 13. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims **11** or **12**.
14. A host cell comprising the vector of claim **13**, wherein said host cell is of mammalian origin.
- 15 15. A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
16. A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 20 17. Use of the composition of claim **15** or **16** for the manufacture of a medicine.
18. Use of the composition of claim **15** or **16** for the identification of inhibitors for Gas6 and its receptors, wherein said receptors are Axl, Mer, or Sky.
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